FALLEN SYNDICATE

PRESENTS

SHINTETSU NO AGARTHA

by TOKITO KANADE

TRANSLATING: Morbid_Charade

PROOFREADING: PiousCorn

CLEANING: Naiena

TYPESETTING: Wolf

QUALITY CHECKING: Alenas

SHINTETSU NO AGARTHA
TOKITOU KANADE
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MUCH ONE CAN RESIST FATE. HOWEVER, FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RESISTED, HOPE SHINES BRIGHTLY—.
CHAPTER 3:—TAKIRI SAMO

LET'S BEGIN THE THIRD CHAPTER, WHICH WILL LIGHT A TORCH FOR THIS LIFE THAT'S KNOWN TO BE THE COLOR IN THIS WORLD.

THERE ARE THREE AT 10 O'CLOCK.
ALMA!
SFX: ZSSH
SFX: ZSSH

SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: WASH
SFX: ZSSH

ARE YOU INJURED?
Tremble
waaaaaaaaaah...
ミチ

SFX: CRACKLE

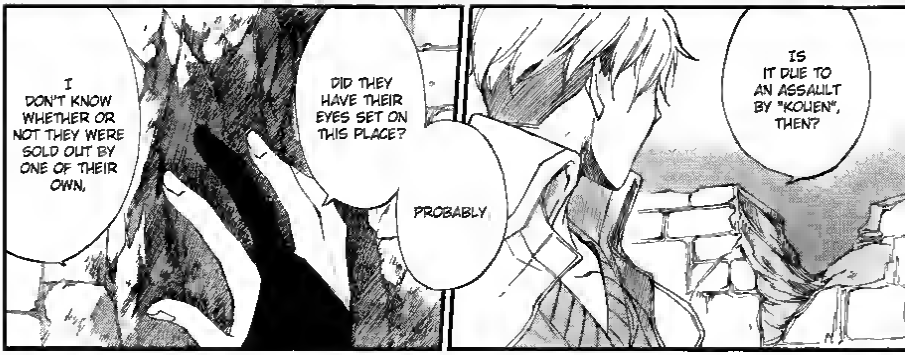
HEAD TOWARD THE SOUTH GATE.
RIGHT NOW A PATH IS BEING PREPARED.

UNDER-STOOD.
DONNY, DIO.
LOOK FOR A HOUSE WITH RED WINDOW FRAMES.
THERE'S STILL ONE PERSON REMAINING NEAR YOU GUYS

MY BABY...
MY BABY...
WE'VE SECURED THE AREA.
YOU SHOULD LOOK FOR SHELTER AWAY FROM HERE
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.
PICK YOURSELF BACK UP
AND MOVE ON
BURTON, KICCHOMU
HOW IS IT OVER THERE?

ALL CLEAR.
SFX: SWOO
LET'S MEET BACK UP.
IT SEEMS THAT ALL OF THE SURVIVORS HAVE TAKEN COVER AS WELL.
...

IT'S A COMMUNITY WITH A SOLID STRUCTURE.
SEEMS LIKE IT WAS ABLE TO PROSPER IN ITS OWN WAY.
CONSIDERING THAT IT'S STILL FALLING TO PIECES HERE AND THERE.
THE CAUSE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE JUST NORMAL DEGRADATION.


IS IT DUE TO AN ASSAULT BY "KOUEN", THEN?
DID THEY HAVE THEIR EYES SET ON THIS PLACE?
PROBABLY.
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY WERE SOLD OUT BY ONE OF THEIR OWN.

BUT, IT'S CERTAINLY TRUE THAT THE DAMAGE WAS SEVERE.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE RESISTED A SECOND ATTACK.
THE BURNS ARE VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT YOU'D SEE FROM AN INVASION.
THAT THIS METHOD HAS BECOME THE WHOLE REASON FOR THEIR ACTIONS IS TERRIFYING THOUGH.

NOTHING HAS CHANGED.
IT'S THE SAME AS LONG AGO
TENKOU
ALMA
EVERYONE IS SAFE
PLEASE,
GIVE ME YOUR LIFE.

YEAH,
WE WERE ALL SAVED BY YOUR "EYES".
I WONDER ABOUT THAT...
YES,
DIO?
TUG
ALL RIGHT, WE'VE COLLECTED THE INFORMATION.
SHALL WE GO?
BEEP
TENKOU
IS FINE.

I THINK IT WILL BE DIFFICULT
FOR THE VILLAGERS TO RETURN.
IF WE DON'T LEAVE SOON,

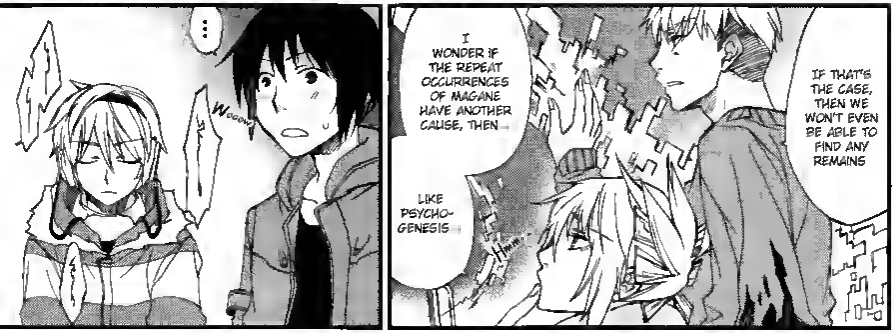
SFX RA-DUMP

IT HAS A HEAT
THAT FEELS LIKE IT'S BURNING MY THROAT AND STOMACH
BITTER AND HEAVY.
Shiver
AS EXPECTED,
IT'S INTENSE
THE FLAVOR OF LIFE.
ONE DAY...
THIS IS
IT HURTS.
NO.
WE WON'T.
SQUEEZE
ARE WE GOING TO BECOME THIS FLAVOR TOO?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WE'LL BECOME LIKE THAT.
IS THAT SO?
I'M GLAD.

BUT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THERE'S VERY LITTLE RESPONSE TO THE "EARTH ELEMENT".
ACCORDING TO THE OLD MAP, THE "AGARTHA OF IWAKURA"* SHOULD BE IN THIS TERRITORY.
THE OTHER FIVE ELEMENTS ARE OFFSETTING EACH OTHER, SO NOW IT SEEMS TO BE A DEADLY PLACE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DONNY?
HMM
VNNH

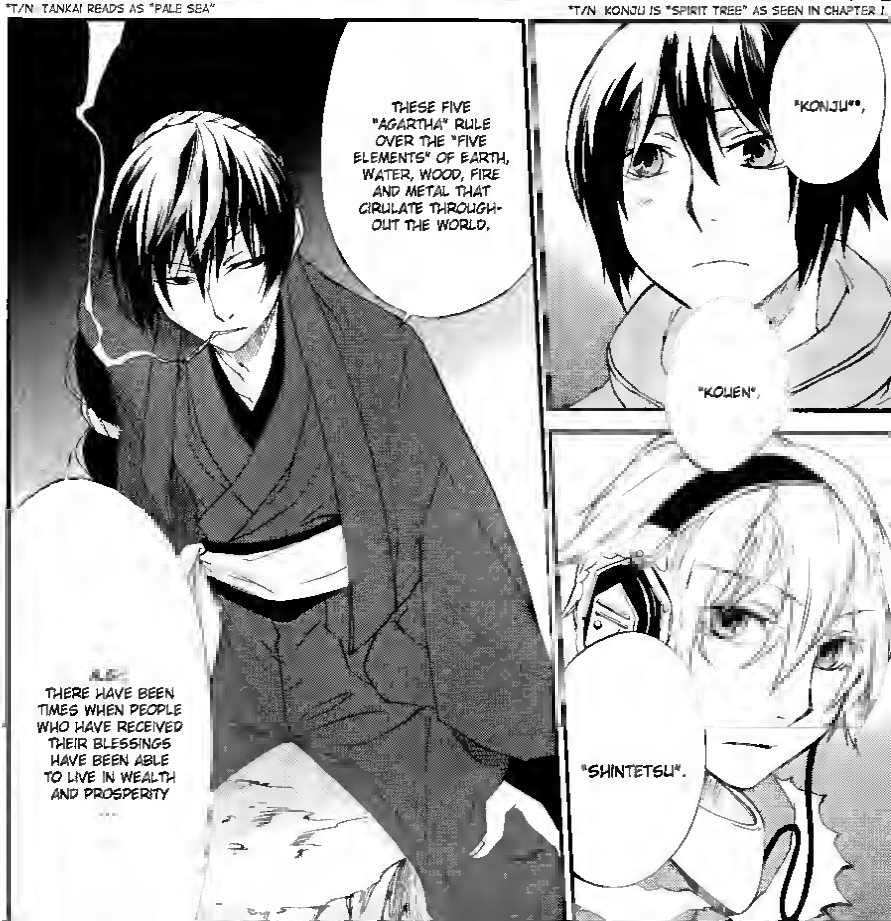
*T/N: IWAKURA MEANS "THE DWELLING PLACE OF A GOD" AND USUALLY REFERS TO A HUGE ROCK


...
Woooo
I WONDER IF THE REPEAT OCCURRENCES OF MAGANE HAVE ANOTHER CAUSE, THEN...
LIKE PSYCHO-GENESIS...
Hmm...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO FIND ANY REMAINS

THEREFORE, LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE'VE BEEN GATHERING CLUES ABOUT IT, NO MATTER HOW SMALL THEY ARE.
YEAH,
BUT, IT'S IN A COUNTRY THAT EXISTED MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. THERE'S VERY LITTLE RECORD OF IT.
AREN'T WE LOOKING FOR THE "AGARTHA OF SHINTETSU"?
Um...
A-ALMA.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

*T/N: TANKAI READS AS "PALE SEA"

*T/N: KONJU IS "SPIRIT TREE" AS SEEN IN CHAPTER 1


THESE FIVE "AGARTHA" RULE OVER THE "FIVE ELEMENTS" OF EARTH, WATER, WOOD, FIRE AND METAL THAT CIRULATE THROUGH-OUT THE WORLD.
"KONJU"*,
"KOUEN",
THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED THEIR BLESSINGS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LIVE IN WEALTH AND PROSPERITY
"SHINTETSU".

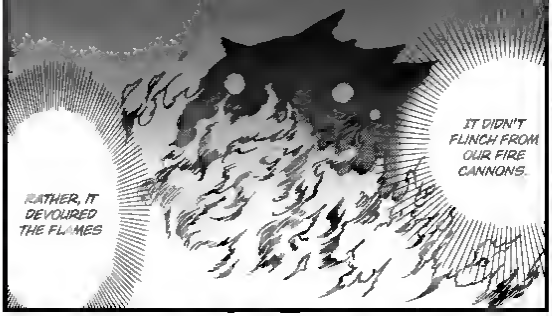
...THE WORLD HAD PROSPERED TO SUCH A DEGREE,
SO WHY HAS IT ALL FALLEN INTO SUCH GREAT RUIN NOW...?
WHO KNOWS.
I'D LIKE TO HEAR THE ANSWER TO THAT MYSELF.
THEN THERE ARE THE MAGANE.
IT'S JUST A GUESS, BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE "AGARTHA"
FURTHERMORE, IN THE REGIONS WHERE THERE ARE MAGANE OUTBREAKS,
THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE CHANCE THAT THERE WILL BE SOME "AGARTHA REMAINS" AS WELL.
IF WE FIND SOME REMAINS,
THAT'S THE REASON WHY WE'RE CHASING AFTER THE MAGANE.
THEN WE'LL SURELY FIND A PATH LEADING TO THE "AGARTHA OF SHINTETSU"...
BEEP
MSG

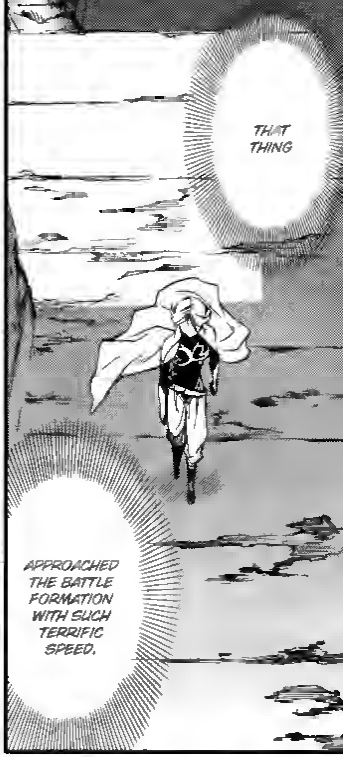
ALSO, THERE'S AN "EARTH ELEMENT" RESPONSE
MORE-OVER, IT'S REASONABLY STRONG...
WHERE IS IT!?
HOLD ON, THIS IS...
N-NO WAY.
GSH
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH... NOTHING.
TO THE WEST OF HERE, THERE'S A SPRAWLING BLANK AREA THOUGH
UHNH
GSH
FOR IT TO BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
IS COMPLETELY UNLIKELY...
...THE

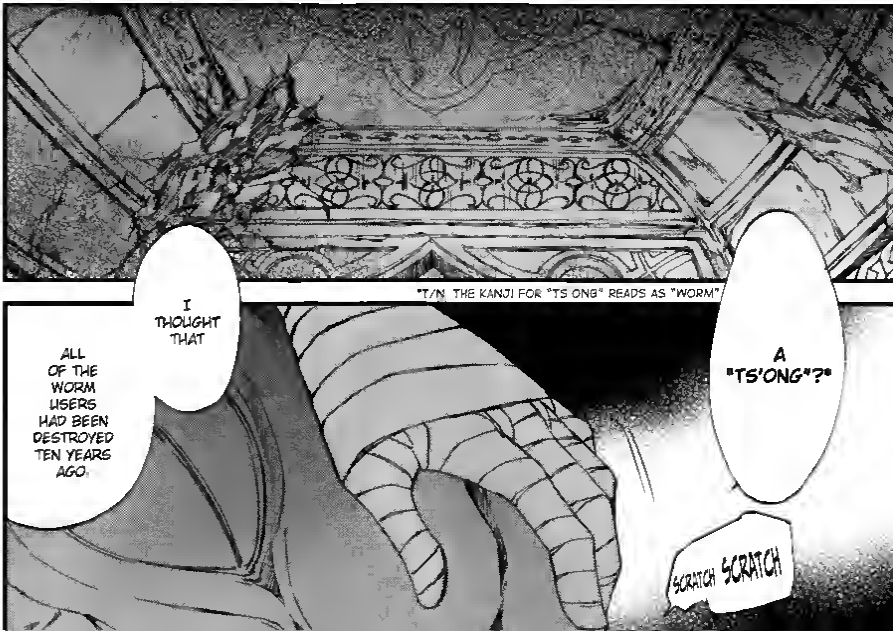
BOOM
DON'T GET CARELESS,
THAT THING IS SURPRISINGLY FAST.
WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE TARGET IS APPROACHING.
DISTANCE IS APPROXIMATELY 2000.
NOT YET.
WE'LL WAIT UNTIL IT'S A SURE HIT.
LET'S DO IT.
THE MAIN ARMAMENT IS LOADED!
!
SFX: RUMBLE
...WHA...?
FIRE.
FIRE!!
DESERT...?
BOOM

GYAAAAAAAHA
AAAHA...
SFX BOOM
WELL...?
THE SUPPRESSION FAILED
YOU LOST AROUND HALF OF THE COMPANY, AND HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO RETREAT
YES..
MY PRESTIGE... AND YOUR RELIANCE ON ME WAS MISPLACED

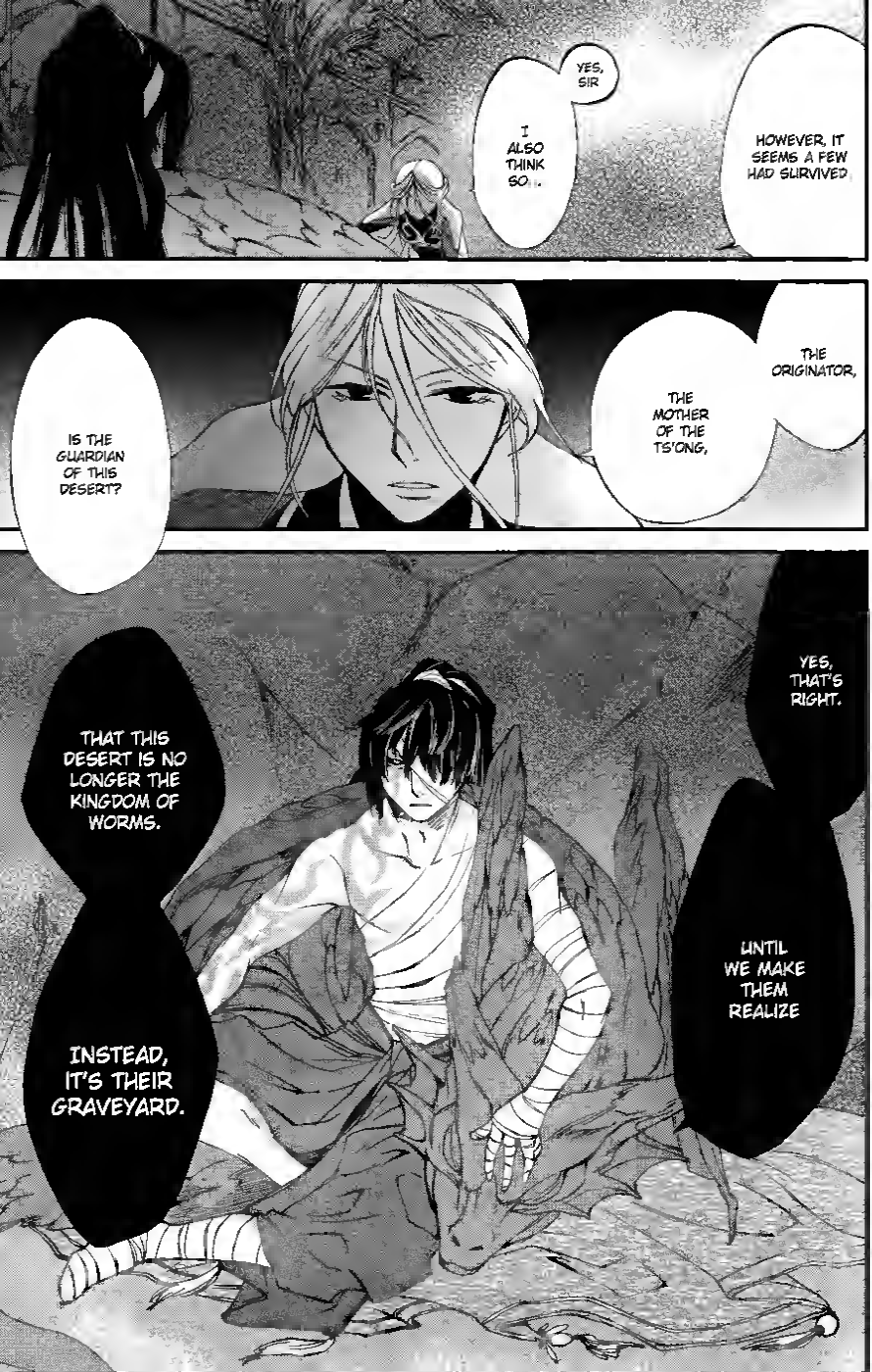
SHOCK
I WILL ATONE WITH MY LIFE...!
N-NOW THAT IT'S COME TO ME DAMAGING
HIS MAJESTY'S AUTHORITY,
SFX: STOMP
NONSENSE.
THE PEOPLE WITHIN "KOUEN" BELONG TO HIS MAJESTY, DOWN TO THE VERY LAST DROP OF BLOOD IN THEIR BODIES.
A DEATH OUT OF ATONEMENT WILL NOT BRING HIS MAJESTY ANY RELIEF.
IF YOU ARE JUST IDLY WASTING YOUR LIFE,
THEN YOU SHOULD DEVOTE YOURSELF TO HIS MAJESTY UNTIL YOU TURN TO DUST.
YOU'LL BE GIVEN ORDERS LATER.
YOU'RE DISMISSED.







"T/N: THE KANJI FOR "TS'ONG" READS AS "WORM"


HOWEVER, IT SEEMS A FEW HAD SURVIVED
YES, SIR
I ALSO THINK SO.
THE ORIGINATOR,
THE MOTHER OF THE TS'ONG,
IS THE GUARDIAN OF THIS DESERT?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
UNTIL WE MAKE THEM REALIZE
THAT THIS DESERT IS NO LONGER THE KINGDOM OF WORMS.
INSTEAD, IT'S THEIR GRAVEYARD.

SHHF
SHHF
WHEEZE
PANT
PANT
A PLACE WHICH DOESN'T ALLOW FOR EVEN THE SHADOWS OF LIVING THINGS TO EXIST, NOT TO MENTION WHOLE VILLAGES.
A PLACE ALSO KNOWN AS THE "DESERT OF DEATH".
TAKIRI SAMO.
DURING THE DAY IT'S SCORCHING HOT, AND AT NIGHT IT'S FREEZING COLD.
WHOOOOOSH

HOWEVER, THIS LONELY PLACE USED TO BE FULL OF TRIBES OF PEOPLE
BUR-TON!
BUR-TON!
SHF
SHF
SHF
AND IT'S WORTHY OF SPECIAL MENTION, THAT THIS SAND-STORM WE'RE IN RIGHT NOW
WOULD STRIP OUR BODIES OF MEAT AND LEAVE ONLY BONES IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES IF WE WEREN'T WEARING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING
SHF
RIGHT NOW,
IT'S
IMPOS-SIBLE ...!!
I-
I REALLY DO WANT TO HEAR YOUR... YOUR LECTURE,
BUT
WHEEZE
HAAAH
WHAT IS IT?
.....
SFX: SLIP
!
LET'S TAKE SHELTER THERE FOR AN HOUR!
UP AHEAD IS A SAND-STONE CAVE.
BECAUSE THAT'S ALL A SCHOOL TEACHER IS GOOD FOR
OH, SORRY
I UNCON-SCIOUSLY STARTING DOING IT
Are you okay?

PULL
ALMA,
HANG IN THERE.
EVERYONE,
THE SAND IS REALLY DEEP AROUND HERE, SO BE CAREFUL!
OKAY.
IT'S JUST A LITTLE FARTHER
YEAH
.....
SHHF
SHHF

IF IT GETS ANY WORSE, IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE WE CAN CONTINUE MOVING...
YEAH
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S GOING TO LET UP
WHOOO
BUT HE'S BEEN USING HIS "EYES" SINCE WE ENTERED THE DESERT
IT'S NOT MUCH,
... LET THEM SLEEP LIKE THAT FOR A WHILE.
IT SEEMS THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY TIRED
YEAH..

THAT'S TRUE.
WE'VE NEVER GONE MORE THAN THREE DAYS WITHOUT MEETING ANY MAGANE BEFORE.
EATING THE EMERGENCY SUPPLY THAT'S BEEN SOLIDIFIED.
WE'RE DOWN TO THE POINT WHERE WE'LL HAVE TO START
IF WE JUST EAT THE BARE MINIMUM, OUR SUPPLY WILL LAST FOR SEVEN MORE DAYS
ROLL
HOW MUCH
DO WE HAVE LEFT OF THAT?
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE
IT'S IRONIC
TO CROSS THROUGH THIS DESERT WITHOUT THESE BODIES
HONESTLY, HE REALLY SURPRISED ME.
SOON, IT'LL BE ONE MONTH
SINCE TENKOU JOINED OUR JOURNEY.
AFTER THAT FIRST TIME, HE HASN'T UTTERED A SINGLE COMPLAINT.
YEAH
.....

EVER SINCE WE ASKED HIM TO JOIN US, HE'S BEEN TRYING HIS HARDEST TO MOVE FORWARD.
EARNESTLY
AND DETER-MINEDLY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THAT'S WHY I WORRY.
BEEP
AH
THE ANAL-YSIS IS COMP-LETE...
YEAH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
UM...
I WONDER IF THIS GADGET IS BROKEN.
THIS IS...

AND THERE'S AN "EARTH ELEMENT" RESPONSE.
SOMETHING IS MOVING,
PISSED
I PUT IN THE RIGHT GETTINGS!!
HOLD ON, YOU TWO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
FIRST OFF, CALM DOWN!
YOUR COORDINATES ARE JUST OFF, AREN'T THEY!? HUH!?
IT'S HOT.

!
INCREDIBLY HOT...
AND COVERED IN
RED
RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
FLAMES...
TENKOU,
WAIT! IT'S STILL BAD OUT THERE...

THE SANDSTORM
IS BEING DIVERTED BY TENKOU...!
DIO.
!
SFX: VANNSH
SFX: ROAR

SFX: ROAR
IT'S QUAKING WITH A TREMENDOUS RAGE...!
THE DESERT IS... CRYING...

SWOOOOOOOO
SFX:BOOM
I HAVE COME TO REPORT.
THERE HAS ■EEN CONFIRMATION OF TS'ONG ■EING SPOTTED TO THE SOUTH.
WITH THEIR CURRENT SPEED, THEY'RE GRADUALLY GETTING CLOSER TO OUR LOCATION!

PULL THE TROOPS BACK.
I'LL GO.
AS A KING,
I SHOULD SHOW THEM SOME COURTESY BY GREETING THEM.
THOSE GUYS CAME SPECIFICALLY TO MEET ME.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THAT WOULD LEAVE YOU TOO DEFENSELESS.
!
YOUR MAJESTY.
THEN, AT LEAST
ALLOW ME TO GO ALONG WITH YOU.
FINE.
YOU SHALL BECOME A WITNESS,
NYX.

NYX
DON'T STEP TOO FAR AWAY FROM ME,
YES, SIR.
STEP
SFX FLAP
OUR TARGET IS
APPRO-ACHING.
SFX RUMBLE

SFX BOOM

WHAT'S THIS?
SOMETHING SO TINY?
SFX: ROAR
I SEE...
YOU'VE DIRECTED YOUR RAGE TOWARD ME.
SINCE YOU'RE STILL A BRAT WHO DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE BREADTH OF THE WORLD ...?
SFX: FHH
ENOUGH ALREADY.
VANISH.

KUH.
IT'S GOING TO... EAT THE FLAMES AS EXPECTED?
YOUR MAJESTY!!
CRACK
SFX: BOOM
!!
SHOOM SFX

ITS STOMACH BURST...?
HIS MAJESTY'S FLAMES ARE TRULY FEROCIOUS
ゴオオオ
SFX ROAR
KUH...
アアアア
SFX ZSSH
SUKUNA.

SFX: ROAR
オォォォォ...
.....!!
SUK-
UNA...
SFX: GRIND
!
SFX: RUSH
BAODI!

!!
DON'T GET IN MY WAY...
WHO...
WHO ARE YOU!?
SFX ZSSFH
!
DON'T THROW AWAY
YOUR LIFE!!

THAT'S
OUR LINE!
SFX THUD
RUNNING OFF WITHOUT TAKING A SECOND TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING,
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
NEXT TIME IT MIGHT BE
IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO FOLLOW YOU!
...I AGREE!

SFX PING
WIDEN
SFX BASH

DID YOU THINK THAT
THROB
YOU COULD DISREGARD ME, AND STAND BEFORE HIS MAJESTY?
SFX ZSSH
ALMA!
ROOOAR
ROAR

SFX RUMBLE
SFX ROAR

SFX: CHOMP
...
TOKOYO
WHY
...?
WHAT IS THE WORLD
LIKE UNDER THE SAND!?

THEN WHY NOT RECRUIT SOME MORE?
WE'RE TRYING BUT IT DOESNT DO ANY GOOD WHEN NO ONE APPLIES
UH SIR? I'M SORRY, BUT WE'RE LOW ON STAFF
DAMMIT! WHERE ARE THOSE NEW CHAPTERS?!
ARE YOU FREAKING SERIOUS?
MANGA
FIST SLAM
WELL UH, YES ACTUALLY

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WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
?
IT'S KIND OF CREEPING ME OUT
STARE
THIS GUY'S WEIRD STILL MAYBE I SHOULD VOLUNTEER AND HELP SPEED UP THEIR RELEASES

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